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Spring 2014

# HABIT Spring 2014

Department of Comparative Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine

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# H.A.B.I.T

Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee

 College of Veterinary Medicine



Human  
Animal Bond  
in Tennessee

March 2014

H.A.B.I.T. SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER



Joan Cohn and Dr. New at the 2013 KMA event



Dr. John and Mrs. Jane New

## Thoughts about John New by Joan Cohn

John was a friend, mentor, and advisor for over 20 years. At first I was intimidated by his vast knowledge of the field of the human-animal bond, but I soon learned what a kind and compassionate person he was. I nicknamed him "Gentle Giant."

He never tired of hearing stories about the effects H.A.B.I.T. visits had on those we see. He was particularly interested in my visits to the Intensive Care Unit at Children's Hospital. We were trying to simplify the process needed to make visits there. Often we would miss an opportunity to fill a request because of the many approvals needed before each visit. This was very upsetting to John. The last time I went to the unit, the ICU administrator observed Macy and me and decided we needed to change the policy in order to facilitate the process. John was elated that would finally happen.

When he saw a need in the community, John tried to fill it. Whether it was H.A.B.I.T, HALT, CAIT, or the numerous other organizations he participated in or founded, he was always willing to work hard to achieve goals.

I thought I knew of all the organizations John had founded, but only recently did I learn of “Vets for Pets of Homeless Owners.” This organization provides veterinary care for animals of the homeless. He thought it was very important to get veterinary students involved in this effort. Doing this would teach them compassion for this population, as well as provide a much-needed service.

John always led by example.

Years ago, H.A.B.I.T. went through a very difficult time. We had lost our office at UT due to lack of space there, and our finances could not support an off-campus location. John worked tirelessly with the Board of Advisors to find a solution. He was determined that H.A.B.I.T. would continue. His efforts kept us focused until the problem was solved.

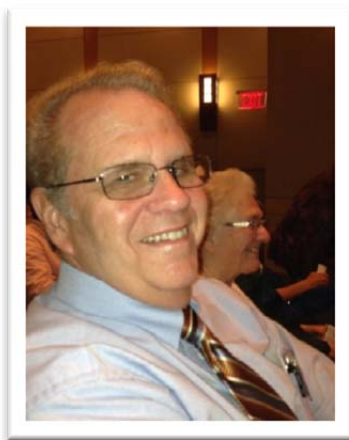
John always tried to be fair to everyone. When I had a problem with a volunteer I always turned to him. Not too long ago, an animal had a problem on its first visit to a facility. I called John because I wanted him to tell the volunteer that she was just not meant for H.A.B.I.T so I wouldn't have to do it. Instead, he suggested the dog be checked to see if it had a health issue that would have caused the problem; it did. The dog was allowed to continue in H.A.B.I.T. Two years later, that animal and its owner are still providing comfort to many people when they make their visits.

Giving John an honor was very difficult. He always wanted credit given to others, not himself. Even so, he often received recognition and had awards named for him. We tried to name a H.A.B.I.T. award in his honor, but he didn't want us to do it. We waited until he was out of town and did it at a Board of Advisors meeting. When he returned, I told him what we had done and that he couldn't change it.

I couldn't talk about John without mentioning his sense of humor. It was very dry and often came without warning. At Board of Advisors meetings, he would keep things lively with his funny comments. During the last meeting he attended, John was in especially good spirits since he had found a successor for H.A.B.I.T. His sense of humor was infectious that day.

One of John's biggest assets was his wife, Jane. Several years ago when students visited from South Korea to learn more about the human-animal bond from John, Jane did much of the chauffeuring and entertaining. She encouraged him in all he did even though it often meant he spent many hours away from home. Over the years I spent many evenings with Jane and John at the annual UT College of Veterinary Medicine Honors Banquet and always looked forward to being with both of them. Whenever I called him at home, she would tell John one of his “girls” was on the phone. John was not the only one in the family who had a great sense of humor.

Now we must go on without John, but what he has taught us will continue to help H.A.B.I.T. provide service to others. I often find myself telling a volunteer that John had previously said how we should do something a certain way under the same circumstances. This organization will continue to grow because he gave us “roots” and now “wings.” We are fortunate to have had his leadership, and will always be thankful for him. He has undoubtedly left this world a better place.





Jane New, Smokey, and  
Dr. John New

## Things you might not know about John Coy New Jr. by Jane New

John's grandmother had 7 boys. #5 was Johnny Coy New. Grandmother's maiden name was Ada Belle McCoy. She shortened the McCoy for Johnny's middle name. John used Ancestry.com to determine if he was part of the Hatfield/McCoy lines, but it didn't appear to be true. John's extended family called him J.C. so as not to confuse him with his father. John was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, but he moved to Texas before he was a year old.

He graduated college and Veterinary School from Texas A&M. There is a rivalry between that other school with the initials of UT that always wears orange and white. He often shook his head when he realized that his allegiance now was to another orange and white UT.

During grade school and high school John was part of the musical world. He was a wonderful pianist and developed a love of classical music. He played the tenor saxophone in the high school marching, concert and jazz bands. He had a wonderful singing voice and could harmonize and chuckle as his wife could not.

John earned the rank of Eagle Scout and continued working with the Boy Scouts as his son, David also earned the rank. As John was leaving Veterinary School he was not sure what kind of Veterinary medicine he wanted to pursue. He enrolled in the Army where he received real training in the field of Public Health. He spent time in Viet Nam, Germany, and Yugoslavia. (He met Jane when they were working a block away from each other in Heidelberg, Germany).

John was fortunate to have mentors in Hiram Kitchen and Leo Busted who encouraged him to get involved in the field of human/animal bond. His first visits were taking our orange and white Matt Cat to the Tennessee school of the Deaf to visit with the children. Our own children, Betsy and David, went with him to help hold Matt as he drooled in contentment over all of the attention that he received.

John had a wealth of knowledge stored away in his brain. He could answer those jeopardy type questions. But if he did not know an answer he could look you straight in the eye and make up an answer never letting on that it was a bluff. John loved his family, his friends, animals, and all of nature (not snakes). He loved to travel and had hoped to see much more of this world. He preferred lemon over chocolate; he learned to eat smaller portions of everything. He so enjoyed his years in H.A.B.I.T. and was very appreciative of all the volunteers both 2 and 4 legged. He wanted to hear all the stories about visits that volunteers made. We, his family, would like to thank all of you for your support both now and for all that you have done for our communities.

## In Memory of Dr. John New

Dennis and Gail Alexander  
 Dr Thomas and Victoria Anderson  
 Dr. Barry and Debra Anderson  
 Dr. Fred M. Applehans  
 Karen Armsey & Robert Keen  
 Paula S. Beal  
 Nancy J. Bell  
 Tommy and Mica Bentley  
 Teresa "Teri" Berger  
 Katherine R. Berger  
 Jonathan and Kimberly Bryant  
 Serge and Debra Butenko  
 Dr and Mrs. D. Ed Claiborne  
 UTCVM Class of 2016  
 Joan R. Cohn  
 Dr. Linden Craig  
 D & TS Brokerage  
 Katherine J. Darnell  
 Dr. Julianne Delzer  
 Lee and Shawna Dittrich  
 Anthony and Kathy Divalentin  
 Dr. and Mrs. Albert S. Dorn  
 David and Mary Dotson  
 Donna J Drelich  
 Whitney A. Dunford  
 East TN Clinical Research Inc  
 Mary Read English  
 Dr. Mary Ergen  
 H. Michael and Johanna M. Fallis  
 Dr. Walter and Alice Farkas  
 Dr. Charles and Vina Faulkner  
 Roy and Suzanne Ferguson  
 K.W. and Gail Fersner  
 Paula J Fielder  
 Ted Flickinger and Julia Howard  
 Debbie C. Fox  
 Richard and Patti Frost  
 "Polly" Giffin  
 P. Carolyn Gooch  
 Dr. June D. Gorski  
 Juliana Grubaugh  
 Earl and Peggy Hagler  
 Jill W. Harmuth

Kenneth and Phyllis Hirsh  
 Ian and Kathalee Hodge

Holbrook Peterson Smith PLLC  
 Payten and Melissa Holcombe  
 Larry and Susan Hutsell  
 Ray and Gail Ingram  
 John and Nancy Jordan  
 Yvonne H Kitchen  
 Drs. Robert and Karen Levy  
 Dr. Sally MacLane  
 Victoria E. McKernan  
 Drs. Ruth and Harry McLeod  
 Marilyn J. Mele  
 Elaine A. Mitchell  
 George and Jane Mitchell  
 Memory F Mitchell  
 Sally H. Mitchell  
 Terence and Shirley Moore  
 Rudolph and Mary A. Moreno  
 Patrick and Brenda Morris  
 Drs. John Chambers, Russ Reel Ian  
 O'Connor  
 Lisa I. Muller  
 Dorothy Dove Murphy  
 F Ellen Netting  
 Carol S. Nickle  
 Dr. Janelle Nimer  
 Dorcas O'Rourke, Susan Orosz,  
 Dreama Cathey, Teri Rowles  
 Pamela A. Petko-Seus  
 Dr. John D. Roszell  
 John S. Rozek  
 Charles and Priscilla Ruemping  
 James E. and Gloria Ruemping  
 Dr. Leslie N. Sadeghi  
 Nancy Sarris  
 A.M. Schraw  
 Dr Edward and Carol Schroeder  
 Hildegard M. Schuller  
 Jack and Jeanne Sharp  
 Dorothy K. Sherer  
 James and Martha Shumann  
 Nora A. Slifer  
 Sisterhood of Temple Beth El  
 Robert and Antoinette Sprinkel  
 William and Bonnie Stalter  
 Daniel and Mikki Steinhoff  
 Kathryn T. Steinhoff

Kenneth and Dolores Stephenson  
 Kevin and Carol Stone  
 Dr. Ali Swofford John and Judy Tippit  
 Nancy W. Tobin  
 Rev John and Dr Mary Torrence  
 UTK Public Health Staff  
 Dr. Lyle and Rosemary Vogel  
 Drs. Matt and Nancy Welborn  
 Dr. Cindy C. Wilson  
 Homer and Gail Yook  
 Young-Williams Animal Center  
 Stephen and Jane Zawistowski





# Open Hearted

by Karen Armsey

Open-Hearted

Genuine Dedicated Compassionate Remarkable

Empathetic Futuristic

Gracious Friendly Compassionate

Kind Visionary Humanitarian

Generous Amazing Advocate Friendly Informative

Exceptional Patient Polite Kind Gentle

After using Facebook to request one-word descriptions of the late and ever-so-great Dr. New, I was overwhelmed with the response. The sample I have included gave me a lot to think about.

One of the descriptors stood out so much for me that I wished I had thought of it, "*Open Hearted*". When I looked it up, I saw that it is an adjective with two meanings. According to Dictionary.com, the two meanings are:

1. Unreserved, candid or frank; *open-hearted* advice
2. Kindly, benevolent; an *open-hearted* gift to charity

No one would argue that Dr. New was kind and benevolent, but those of us who worked with him came to appreciate the fact that he was also candid and frank. I came to depend on this combination of traits because I knew that he was a

straight shooter. If something appeared to be headed in the wrong direction, he was not afraid to tell them. He could always do it in a kind manner. Those closest to him knew the signs. If there was an idea or activity that was a concern, he would cross his arms, take off his glasses, and pinch the bridge of his nose.

When I was still new in the H.A.B.I.T. office, I remember sitting in a meeting with Dr. New. The presenter was going off in a direction that was not appropriate for that time and place. I watched Dr. New become increasingly frustrated with the meeting and realized that he was about to re-direct the tone. I have to admit that I was looking forward to the presenter getting "schooled." That isn't how it went.

Without belittling the person, Dr. New was able to change the entire course of the meeting. His detour resulted in a really positive outcome for everyone.

But you didn't have to be a human to enjoy his open-hearted character. Another friend sent in these two stories:

Twenty years ago, I was still working in the Comparative Medicine Office. A tiny little mouse fell out of the ceiling in the main office. We were all screaming and jumping around on top of chairs and desks – as we tend to do. Somebody yelled to Dr. New to "step on it!" Dr. New calmly walked over to the little thing, scooped it up in his hand and released it outside. That was so "Dr. New."

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His birthday is also one day before my oldest daughter's. He always remembered and made it a point to ask about her when it was close to birthday time. I'll miss that.

There are many more similar stories. No doubt our readers have plenty of their own. He was simply an open-hearted person in all respects. He is still missed every day in the office. Someone else has to be found to answer questions and write articles he promised but didn't get to. He did get so much done before he died, however. Those things will stand the test of time – H.A.B.I.T., CAIT, the Veterinary Social Work Program (and the list goes on), but most importantly – his great family.

### *In Honor*

Marable Wilson

by

Joseph, Lorrie and Rex Johnson

### *In Memory*

Shaq and Fred

by

Beverly Richard Sikorski

" Abby"

by

J John and Belinda Ford

"Lucy" Nobrega-Lee

by

UTCVM faculty/staff

### *H.A.B.I.T. Losses*

John New

Karen Kamman

"Peaches" Atkins

"Bonnie Jean" Huff

"Keric" McKernan

"Katja" Levy

"Miss Kitty" Frost

"Wylie" Mortensen

"McCoy" Patterson

"Patrick" Vonderfecht

"Scout" Shraw

"Eli" Essick



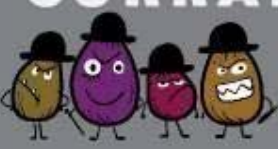










"Gracie Lou" Elkins

"Star" Nixon

"Flo" Berry



Harley Maurer, dog of Todd Maurer works the University of Tennessee. Students.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>ALCOHOL</b><br><br>COMA<br>DEATH<br>INTOXICATION                                 | <b>AVOCADO</b><br><br>CONTAINS PERSIN:<br>VOMITING<br>DIARRHEA  | <b>RAISINS<br/>CURRANTS</b><br><br>KIDNEY<br>FAILURE                       |
| <b>COOKED<br/>BONES</b><br><br>STOMACH<br>LACERATIONS                               | <b>WALNUTS<br/>MACADAMIAS</b><br><br>NERVOUS SYSTEM<br>AND MUSCLE<br>DAMAGE                           | <b>ONIONS<br/>GARLIC</b><br><br>TOO MUCH<br>BLOOD CELL<br>DAMAGE<br>ANEMIA |
| <b>DAIRY</b><br><br>TOO MUCH:<br>DIARRHEA  | <i>the world's</i><br><b>MOST</b><br><b>DANGEROUS</b><br><b>FOODS</b><br><b>FOR DOGS</b>   | <b>GRAPES</b><br><br>KIDNEY FAILURE  |
| <b>MUSHROOMS</b><br><br>SOME VARIETIES:<br>SHOCK<br>DEATH                         |  | <b>FATTY FOODS</b><br><br>TOO MUCH:<br>PANCREATITIS                      |
| <b>CAFFEINE</b><br><br>VOMITING<br>DIARRHEA<br>TOXIC TO HEART & NERVOUS SYSTEM    | <b>XYLITOL</b><br><br>(GUM, CANDY ETC.)<br>LIVER FAILURE<br>HYPOGLYCEMIA<br>DEATH                   | <b>CHOCOLATE</b><br><br>TOXIC TO HEART<br>& NERVOUS<br>SYSTEM<br>DEATH   |
| <b>MEDICATIONS</b><br><br>(TYLENOL, ADVIL ETC.)<br>KIDNEY<br>FAILURE<br>GI ULCERS | If you think your dog ate something dangerous,<br><b>CALL YOUR VET or:</b><br><b>ASPCA POISON CONTROL HOTLINE (888) 426-4436</b><br><b>NATIONAL PET POISON HELPLINE (800) 213-6680</b> |   |
| illustration by LILI CHIN   layout by DESIGN LAB CREATIVE STUDIO   |  |   |



# HIPPA/ FERPA and the H.A.B.I.T. volunteer

This isn't meant to insult your intelligence but it really is an important reminder for all H.A.B.I.T. volunteers. We value your willingness to share your time, talent, and your pets with others in our community and want you to be able to participate in a safe manner. The H.A.B.I.T. office is committed to keeping volunteers up on legal issues attached to our work as those issues evolve.

Most of us have a basic understanding of HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) which says that a patient must provide a signed disclosure before any of their personal information can be given out to anyone. FERPA applies similarly to education. I will not list the specifics but of utmost importance to the H.A.B.I.T. volunteer is IDENTITY. That would be the identity of all of those people, young, old, and in-between, that we visit through our volunteer work. The biggest impact for us would be discussing our clients and/or taking pictures of them. Who hasn't done this!?! It has been part of the fun of visiting. We all have touching or funny stories and cell phones make pictures so easy.

Paperwork can be done to cover pictures but protocol varies from one location to another. Please check with a reliable source of authority at your location before you take pictures or do anything with them. Some locations require a release signed that very day while some permit a blanket release to be kept on file. Minors must have permission/releases signed by their parent or guardian which increases the complexity of the whole issue.

If it all sounds like bureaucratic non-sense that we can all ignore, consider this. Schools deal with a variety of scenarios with their kids that would stand your hair on end if some were made known to outsiders. There are children who were legally adopted but the parents live in fear of a biological parent finding them. There are legitimate reasons for such fear. There are parents on the run from abusive spouses trying to keep their kids in school but are constantly on the run. People in a medical setting may not want the world to know they are incapacitated in any way. A picture of a hospice patient on Face Book may reveal facts they wish to remain private.

The rules are inconvenient but not without some merit. It's something we can live with. If you happen to be posting pics on Face Book or anyplace else, please take them down. Check with your facility contact to make sure you don't violate patient's rights. Stories are great fun but gossip is different. It's ok to tell about what fun your pooch has with a certain 8 year old at the school. Telling someone that Johnny Jones in the Special Education Class you visit just responds so beautifully to your pooch puts a whole new spin on potential damage to that child and their family. You must become part of the client's most inner circle. By the way, the patient can take their own pictures.

If in doubt – call the H.A.B.I.T. office and get their take on a situation.

Macy Cohn, dog of Joan Cohn, and Maggie King, dog of Mae King work University of Tennessee stress events for the students.



# Thanks, Mom

Thanks, Mom

Quit crossing your eyes or they'll stay that way! Make that face too often and it will freeze that way. Sitting too close to the TV will ruin your eyesight. Wash your hands, a little soap and water never hurt anyone!!! Her words still ring in our ears. She was so right about one thing though; hand washing remains a means to protect ourselves and those around us from a widening range of illnesses.

Your Mother was right; you need to eat right, get enough sleep, and wash your hands often. It is amazing how many times things that your Mother used to tell you turn out to be correct. No I don't think that your face will freeze that way if you keep making that goofy look, and I am pretty sure that you will not ruin your eyes by sitting too close to the T.V.; however, I do agree with her when she said that a little soap and water never killed anyone.

Flu, MRSA, and staph are just a few of the illnesses that we are in jeopardy of contracting. Not only are they difficult to treat but if you come down with them you can just be miserable. It seems that young adults are more at risk now, not just the elderly and very young.

Supper bugs, the flu, MRSA, You can hardly turn on the news, or open a newspaper these days without learning about another case of the flu, or about a new supper bug that is not responding to normal anti-bacterial drugs.

"Dangerous MRSA bacteria expand into communities"- WBIR

"Hospitals short of ICU beds, ventilators as flu cases rise"- WBIR

"Young Knoxville father battling H1N1 and double pneumonia"- WATE

"CDC sounds alarm on deadly, untreatable superbugs"- USA today

How does this affect the H.A.B.I.T volunteer? What steps should the H.A.B.I.T human who visits either a school or a facility do to stay healthy? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Regular and effective hand washing

CDC calls proper hand washing a "do it yourself vaccine". You don't need special soap or even hot water to keep up with effective cleansing. Just as a quick reminder, here are the steps suggested by [Http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html)

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

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## 2. Get a flu shot

There are a million excuses/reasons for not getting a flu shot. Not getting the strains of the virus that are covered by the vaccine seems like the best reason to get one. In fact there are some health care facilities that will ask volunteers who cannot, or do not get the flu shot to not visit during flu season without wearing a surgical mask. If you are unable to do the flu shot and unable to do the mask then you cannot make the visit.

3. Use common sense when visiting your facility. Some facilities will ask you to cancel your visits during an outbreak of a contagious illness. Don't take unnecessary risks to your own health. If you are in a facility and you see an isolation sign on the client's door, or a cart with isolation gear on it, you are not to visit that patient, while you may not feel like it is putting yourself at risk; you might be at risk of spreading illness to the next person that you visit.

Remember you should always talk to the facility staff about how they want you to handle your visit during times of facility illness.

4. It is also important that you do not make your H.A.B.I.T visit if you or your animal is ill. You do not want to spread whatever you may have, and you do not want to stress your animal by making the visit if they are ill. Remember that if you will not be making your H.A.B.I.T visit call the teacher or facility to inform them of this. Classroom teachers count on you to be there to work with their students, and both the students and the facility clients may worry about you if you do not show up. You should have been given contact numbers to the facility the first time that you made your visit; if not please contact either your monitor or the H.A.B.I.T office to get this information. Remember it is important to stay healthy, so take care of yourself and live to visit another day.

Perhaps we need to revisit some of mother's favorite warnings we used to think of as nagging. In addition to hand washing (be sure to get under your fingernails) how about getting enough sleep and eating right for starters? Thanks, Mom!

Vegas Wright dog of Jennifer Wright and Forrest Hutsell dog of Susan and Larry Hutsell both working special events.



## Meet the new H.A.B.I.T. leaders

Dr. Marcy Souza- Director of Public Health and Outreach

Dr. Marcy Souza completed veterinary school at North Carolina State University and a Masters of Public Health at the University of Tennessee. She joined the faculty at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. Dr. Souza teaches veterinary and other graduate students and was recently named at the Director of Veterinary Public Health. She has been on the H.A.B.I.T Board of Advisors since 2012, and will oversee activities of the various public health outreach programs at the college including H.A.B.I.T. Dr. Souza also has a H.A.B.I.T dog, Ady, that visits the UT Cancer Center weekly. Ady likes to go for hikes and runs in the woods with her mom and has a “paparazzi-like” following at the college.

Dr. Souza, and Ady



Dr. Zenny Ng- Veterinary Advisor

Zenny Ng (zee-nee ing) is thrilled to be a part of the UT family and H.A.B.I.T. Hailing from northern New Jersey, Zenny received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University and veterinary degree from Cornell University prior to completing a small animal internship at the ASPCA in NYC. He then journeyed to Beijing to work at a progressive small animal hospital dedicated to improving veterinary medicine in China. Following his international adventures, he moved to Blacksburg, Virginia to pursue the first American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) residency combined with a master's degree program in human-animal bond studies at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (Virginia Tech). It was through this unique program that he was able to enhance his medical and surgical skills while developing expertise in human-animal relationships. Specifically, he conducted research investigating the effects of animal-assisted interventions on the behavior and physiology of the animals themselves. During his time at Virginia Tech, he was adopted by a wonderful golden retriever, Grace, and a sweet but mischievous cat, Putty. With Grace at his side, he started the first therapy dog program at Virginia Tech called VT Helping PAWS (Pet Assisted Wellness Service). Zenny, Grace, and Putty have found their new home in Knoxville, where he joins the College of Veterinary Medicine as a clinical assistant professor on the Community Practice service. He is passionate about teaching students, researching the human-animal bond, and improving the lives of pets and people. He hopes to carry on Dr. New's amazing legacy within H.A.B.I.T and the veterinary profession. Outside of work, Zenny enjoys traveling, any kind of pizza, horror movies, roller coasters, and crisp fall days. He looks forward to meeting everyone and their pets and playing a positive role in H.A.B.I.T.

Dr. Ng and Grace





## Right and Kind by Karen Armsey

As you may know, Dr. John New Jr. passed away this past October. Dr. New was the Veterinary Advisor for the program, one of the H.A.B.I.T. program founders, and all around good guy. Dr. New was one of those people that when people out in the real world would hear that he was my boss, they would always say "Oh, Dr. New, I love him" while tilting their head to the right.

The first time that I had any interaction with Dr. New, was just like most of you who are H.A.B.I.T. volunteers, I was at my new volunteer information meeting and I was listening to him talk about what it took for the animal to become a H.A.B.I.T. animal. I will be honest, I don't really remember much about that meeting I was overwhelmed with all the information that I was being told and a bit scared about whether my dog could do all that she was going to be asked to do.

The second time that I spoke with Dr. New, I had been a H.A.B.I.T. volunteer for more than a year and there had been an issue with one of my dogs and Dr. New called me to talk to me about it. While I found the whole situation horrible, I found my conversation with Dr. New almost like calm to the storm that I found myself in. I am not saying that he was able to fix things, or even that he told me what his thoughts were on the situation, but I was sure that he had actually heard what I said and that whatever decision he made would be fair. I will not continue the count of times that I talked with Dr. New; I am blessed to be able to say that I have no idea how many times that we talked.

Please know that I realize that Dr. New was not a saint, I am sure that there were times that his wife had to tell him to pick up his socks, or that his kids just could not believe that they were being "forced" to do something that was so uncool. I know that there were times at work that there would be an issue going on and we would talk about it and then he would take more time than I thought that it should take to come to a decision about what should be done in my mind he had talked to me, what else did he need to make up his mind? Now looking back at it, I thank God that he took time to talk to others and make up his mind, hard as it is to believe there are times that I am wrong.

Dr. New downplayed his accomplishments; I asked him once about how he wanted to be noted in something that we were writing about the program did he want to be John C. New, Jr., DVM, MPH, DACVPM, Department Head, Professor, and H.A.B.I.T. Program Head? No he told me he just wanted to be noted as Dr. John C New Jr DVM. Well I am happy to tell you that Dr. New was not only the alphabet that you see above, but that he also was the recipient of a number of awards including (but not limited to): the Michael J. McCulloch, MD Memorial Award, the Leo Karen Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award, the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine Reed Outstanding Service Award, and the AVMA Animal Welfare Award. The H.A.B.I.T. program has for years given an award to the University of Tennessee Veterinary Student who showed an understanding of the importance of the human animal bond, and for years it was just that the H.A.B.I.T. award. The H.A.B.I.T. Board of Advisors was finally able to change the name of the award to the John C. New H.A.B.I.T. award and this was only done because there was a meeting that Dr. New was unable to attend and they changed it without him knowing it.

I think that one of the biggest reasons why he downplayed his professional accomplishments and awards was the fact that he knew that he had a more important title he was a son, a husband, a father and a grandfather. He was so proud of being John Coy New Jr. and loved his Mom and Dad so much. He would just shine when he was asked about his wife Jane, or his kids David and Betsy but, oh my, if you wanted to see his face light up ask him about his grandkids, Jackson, Evangeline and Conner. He loved those kids so much that it would just make everyone around him smile. True story H.A.B.I.T. has a facebook page and one day I was looking at Dr. New's page and the likes that he had; he had not liked H.A.B.I.T. but he did like a company that made the bows that they would put in his granddaughter's hair. He knew what was really important, family and good hair.

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Last year Dr. New started talking about the transition that would need to take place in the summer of 2014 when he retired from the College of Veterinary Medicine. Things were starting to take shape with the addition of Marcy Souza DVM to the H.A.B.I.T. Board, and Dr. Zenny Ng as an additional Veterinary Advisor to the program. He was starting to look at the everyday stuff of H.A.B.I.T. at what needed to be reviewed, what was in his brain and needed to be written down, and exactly what it was that he did for H.A.B.I.T. so that the next head would know what needed to be done.

No one expected that he would not have time to complete this work, but as you know only the good die young and he left us way too soon.

I know that the H.A.B.I.T. program will be OK. Dr Souza and Dr Ng are pros and everyone is filling in when we find a hole, and trust me holes are still being found. H.A.B.I.T. is and will always be more than one person, even if this person was one of the first to see the vision that became H.A.B.I.T. I also know that his family will be OK, that time passes and the peaks and valleys of grief will someday smooth out; however I am still sad over the trips he will never take with Jane, or the times that his granddaughter will wish he were around to talk to. I am still sad for myself because I was sure that I would have more time to learn from him, that there was so many things that I did not ask him or even know that I needed to ask him. I am sad for the H.A.B.I.T. program because it has lost someone who knew how to swim the crazy current that is the University of Tennessee, and I am sad for the animals of the area that have lost a champion who would fight the good fight for them.

The death of Dr. John C New Jr has changed my world just as the life and works of Dr New changed my world. Dr New's death has taught me that sometimes clichés are overused because they are true you never know if you will have tomorrow so tell people what they need to be told, and do the things that are really important. I was asked one time if I wanted to be right or kind. I learned from Dr. New that sometimes, if you work very hard at it you can be both.

Dr. and Jane New with their wonderful Grandchildren Evangeline, Jackson, and Conner





Dr. New and a small part of his Outreach family, Jamie Norris, Karen Armsey, Dr. Elizabeth Strand, Sarina Lyall, and Teresa Fisher.

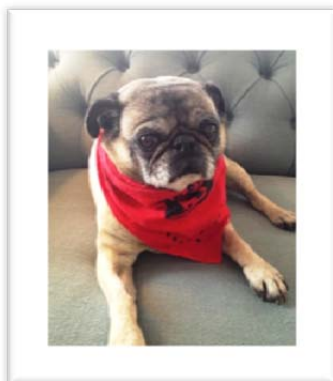
## Save the date

- May 15th Celebrity Bartender at Echo Bistro and Wine Bar [www.echobistro.com](http://www.echobistro.com)

Join H.A.B.I.T. staff, volunteers and Board Members at Echo Bistro and Wine bar where a portion of the evening's bar proceeds and a special tip jar will go to your favorite Animal Assisted Interaction Program. This event runs from 4:30- 8:00 on May 15th, 2014.

## Research

H.A.B.I.T is excited to say that we are taking part in research that the Public Health class here at the University of Tennessee is doing this semester. If you are contacted by a student asking for a few moments of your time to tell them about your H.A.B.I.T. experience please take a few moments and give them your thoughts about our program. The information that you give could influence the H.A.B.I.T program for years to come, Thank you.



Bear Keathley, Chynna Schumpert, and Frida Lefebvre and just a few of H.A.B.I.T's wonderful Ruff Reading dogs.



## Barbeque, Bidding Bluegrass and Behavior at the KMA



People enjoyed the food, fun and fellowship at the 2013 KMA event.

### AROUND TOWN

No Fooling, this year's Barbeque, Bidding, Bluegrass and Behavior fundraiser at the Knoxville Museum of Art will be held on April 1. For the past 2 years, with the help of Swofford Financial Services and a group of their great clients, H.A.B.I.T. has been able to hold a yearly fundraiser at the Knoxville Museum of Art. These events have become a major part of the H.A.B.I.T. fundraising calendar, and are a big reason why H.A.B.I.T. is able to continue its work. This year's event will be on April 1st, and we ask that everyone mark it on their calendars. Please join us for what has turned into a great time of laughter, volunteer bonding, and fellowship.





# BARBEQUE, BIDDING AND BLUEGRASS

## AN EVENING OF GOOD BEHAVIOR WITH HABIT

Tuesday April 1, 2014 ~ 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Seminar & celebration at the Knoxville Museum of Art

(optional complimentary tour of KMA from 4:00 to 5:00 pm)

1050 Worlds Fair Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37916-1653

R.S.V.P: by March 15, 2014 • A \$35 dollar per guest donation is requested.

### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PET'S BEHAVIOR?

**Dr. Julie Albright**, PetSafe Chair in Small Animal Behavioral Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, will lead a discussion on what makes a good therapy animal, followed by a Q & A with the audience.

Support **HABIT** with some spirited bidding in our silent auction, and enjoy a barbeque dinner and Bluegrass music from local band, The Grassroots Gringos.

For more info please email: [habit-et@utk.edu](mailto:habit-et@utk.edu) or call the **HABIT** office at (865) 974-5633.  
mail your donation for the event to **HABIT**, 2407 River Drive Rm A205, Knoxville TN 37996-4543.  
All proceeds of this event will go to support **HABIT** programs in our east TN community. Thank you.

Human Animal Bond in Tennessee is an animal-assisted therapy program made up of more than 250 volunteers and organized through the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Each year, the volunteers, along with their animals, make a total of 200,000 contacts in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, various units at Children's Hospital, schools, and drug recovery programs. Since no two volunteers are the same, we work with the volunteer to place her/him and her/his pet in the best environment for them.

We are one of the oldest animal-assisted therapy programs in the country.



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE **UT**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE